

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8656

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T MONROVIA 3654

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR GV

SUBJECT: GUINEA

1. LIBERIAN FINANCE MINISTER STEPHEN TOLBERT INFORMED ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM HE WAS SENT BY PRESIDENT TOLBERT TO CONAKRY JULY 2. TRIP HAD THREE PURPOSES: TO PRESENT LETTER ON RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, TO REPORT ON PRESIDENT TOLBERT' S VISIT TO U. S. AND TO MAKE APPROACH ON U. S./ GUINEA RELATIONS. TOLBERT EXPLAINED HE HAD VISITED GUINEA BEFORE PRESIDENT TOLBERT' S TRIP TO U. S. AND HAD PROMISED SEKOU TOURE FURTHER REPORT AFTER VISIT.

2. PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAS UNDERTAKEN TO MEDIATE BETWEEN FRANCE AND GUINEA AND STEPHEN TOLBERT DELIVERED LETTER TO SEKOU TOURE CONTAINING OFFER BY PRESIDENT POMPIDOU TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS WITH GUINEA ON BLOCKED FUNDS IF GUINEA WOULD RELEASE AT LEAST SOME OF TWENTY- ONE FRENCH PRISONERS. ACCORDING TO STEPHEN TOLBERT, POMPIDOU PARTICULARLY INCENSED BECAUSE TOURE HAD RELEASED PRISONERS FOLLOWING VISIT OF MEMBER OF FRENCH OPPOSITION BUT WAS UNWILLING RESPOND TO POMPIDOU' S APPROACHES.

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3. AFTER REPORTING TO TOURE ON PRESIDENT TOLBERT' S U. S. VISIT STEPHEN TOLBERT SAID HE MADE TWO POINTS REGARDING RELATIONS WITH U. S. IN CONTEXT ASSISTANT SECRETARY' S FORTHCOMING VISIT. FIRST, HE REPORTED PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAD CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY ROGERS GUINEA INTERESTED IN GOOD RELATIONS. HE TOLD TOURE HE FOUND U. S. WILLING TO HELP BUT THAT U. S. HAD PROBLEMS IN LACK OF AID LEGISLATION AND IN SHORTAGES OF PL 480 COMMODITIES. SECONDLY, HE REPORTEDLY TOLD TOURE U. S. DISAPPOINTED IN PAST RESPONSES FROM GUINEA TO U. S. ASSISTANCE AND EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST. HE FOUND U. S. UNHAPPY WITH CONTINUING CHARGES OF U. S. INVOLEMENT AND CONTINUING SUSPICIONS AGAINST U. S.

4. TOLBERT SAID TOURE MADE NO RESPONSE TO THESE POINTS. TOLBERT TOLD NEWSOM HE SHOULD ANTICIPATE CONTINUING SUSPICIONS FROM GUINEA DESPITE TOLBERT' S EFFORTS. NEWSOM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR TOLBERT' S EFFORTS AND SAID HE HOPED LIBERIA WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT EFFORTS BY U. S. TO MAINTAIN SATISFACTORY RELATIONS WITH GUINEA, PARTICULARLY DURING PERIOD WHEN U. S. HANDICAPPED BY SHORTAGES OF COMMODITIES SUCH AS RICE WHICH WE HAVE TRADITIONALLY PROVIDED TO GUINEA.

5. TOLBERT ALSO TOLD NEWSOM THAT A GUINEA DELEGATION HEADED BY ISMAIL TOURE DUE IN MONROVIA JULY 9 TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS ON BILATERAL MATTERS INCLUDING NIMBA.
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